

ARGUMENTS

Per our telephone interview on December 27, 2004, I am filing this response.

Regarding claim 1, we agreed that Applicant's claimed invention could be distinguished from Blandenberg. Applicant claims:

a keyboard portion having a support base and a keypad, the support base defined by a top surface, a bottom surface, a rear edge, a front edge, and a pair of side edges, the keypad overlaying the top surface of the support base;

an electronic housing having a configuration defined by a top surface, a bottom surface, a rear edge, a front edge, and a pair of side edges, the front edge of the electronic housing being hingedly coupled to the front edge of the support base such that the electronic housing can pivot from a closed position into an open position wherein the bottom surface of the electronic housing is parallel to the bottom surface of the support base;

Blandenberg states:

As device 801 transitions to the open state, display portion 803 hingedly pivots relative to body portion 807 as indicated by arrow 809 in FIG. 6B. In the open state, display screen 815 display screen 8154 is adjacent to and visible above thumbboard 805.

As shown in FIG. 6C which illustrates the open state of the Blandenberg device, the display is adjacent to the keyboard. The prior illustrates in FIG. 6A and 6B that bottom surface of the keyboard and display portion are parallel in a closed state. However, applicant claims the bottom surface of the electronic housing which houses the display and the bottom surface of the keyboard portion are parallel in an open state. Thus, the Applicant's invention is distinguished from the prior art.

Regarding independent claim 7, claim 7 was amended to claim an alternative embodiment of claim 1, wherein the invention is affixed into an operable position with the bottom surface of electronic housing (620) and keyboard portion (610) in a parallel position. (See Page 8 line 8-16 and FIG. 6 of the specification)

Regarding independent claim 13, claim 13 was amended to claim an alternative embodiment of claim 1, wherein the invention is slid into an operable position with the bottom surface of electronic housing (720) and keyboard portion (710) in a parallel position. (See Page 10 line 3-5 and FIG. 7C of the specification).

Applicant has amended independent claims 7 and 13 to further distinguish with the prior art. In view of the above amendments to independent claims 7 and 13 and supporting argument to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections to the supporting dependent claims be withdrawn. Alternately should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted:



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND FACSIMILE

I, Delphine James, hereby certify that the foregoing Response to the Office Action is being deposited on January 2, 2005 with the United States Postal Service as U.S. Express Mail. Additionally, the foregoing response is also being transmitted by Facsimile to 703-872-9314.

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